

APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR AN  
ULTRASONIC MEDICAL DEVICE ENGAGING A FLEXIBLE MATERIAL

ABSTRACT

5           The present invention provides an apparatus and a method for an ultrasonic medical device having a flexible material engaging an ultrasonic probe. The flexible material surrounds a portion of a longitudinal axis of an ultrasonic probe of the ultrasonic medical device. The flexible material may extend beyond a probe tip. The flexible material cushions a tip of the ultrasonic probe and reduces the stresses on the ultrasonic probe as the ultrasonic  
10 probe is navigated within the vasculature. The ultrasonic probe may be shaped to increase a radial span of the ultrasonic medical device. In a preferred embodiment of the present invention, the flexible material comprises a polymer material. Additionally, the flexible material may have a high radiopacity.